Library

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

KNOTTINGLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954

URBAN DISTRICT
OF
KNOTTINGLEY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1954

BY

J. F. FRASER

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Urban District during the year 1954.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

John F. Fraser.

Medical Officer of Health.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL - 1954.

Chairman: Cr. G. Fozzard, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Cr. J.E. Durkin, J.P.

Cr. R.P. Wilson

Cr. S. Burton

Cr. P. Gross

Cr. J. Hannar

Cr. H. Hemsworth

Cr. E. Hodgson

Cr. M. Nunns

Cr. E. Raw

Cr. M. Raw

Cr. H. Rose

Cr. A. Reynolds, J.P.

Cr. T.C. Askin

Cr. J.T.D. Beaumont

Clerk to the Council:

S.D. Hill, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health:

John F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Sanitary Inspector:

Kenneth Whiteley, M.S.I.A.

PART ONE

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District: 2,837 acres.

Population, mid-year, Registrar-General's estimate: 10,520

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954: 3,285.

Rateable value: 1954 - £50,593. 1953 - £47,051.

Product of penny rate: 1954: £191.11.2. 1953: £183.12.7d.

These figures show a population increase of 110.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1953.

Live Births	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	81 (105)	105 (86)	186 (191)
Illegitimate	5 (6)	3 (8)	8 (14)
Total	86 (111)	108 (94)	194 (205)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.4 (19.7)

Percentage of illegitimate live births: 4.12 (6.82)

Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	3 (3)	- (4)	3 (7)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
	4 (3)	- (4)	4 (7)

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births): 20.2 (33.01)

Rate per 1,000 estimated population: .38 (.67)

Deaths.	Male.	Female.	Total.
All age groups	45 (54)	34 (30)	79 (84)

Infants under 1 yr.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	4 (2)	2 (2)	6 (4)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Total	5 (2)	2 (2)	7 (4)

Maternal Deaths. NIL (NIL)

Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population	7.5 (8.1)
All infants per 1,000 live births	36.1 (19.7)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.25(20.94)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125.0 (NIL)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live & still births	NIL (NIL)

The number of births has decreased by 11 as compared with last year, and the birth rate has fallen from 19.7 to 18.4. Deaths have decreased by 5. The infant mortality rate is 36.1.

The principal causes of death are set out in the following table.

TABLE I.

Cause of Death:	Male	Female	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	-	2
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	-	4
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	3	12	15
Coronary disease, Angina	7	4	11
Other Heart Diseases	4	3	7
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis	6	2	8
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	1	1	2
	45	34	79

Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of infant deaths during 1954, classified into age groups.

TABLE II.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mths	All ages under 1yr. M.	F.	T.
Congenital Heart Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Toxaemia and Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infantile Convulsions & Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
	4	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	5	2	7

Four deaths occurred in hospital which were inward transfers and three occurred at home.

COMPARISON OF KNOTTINGLEY VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING URBAN DISTRICTS, THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Knottingley Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	18.4	14.7	15.1	15.2
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes.	7.5	12.7	11.9	11.3
Infective and Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	0.19	0.07	0.08	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.19	0.18	0.16	0.16
Tuberculosis Other	-	0.01	0.02	0.02
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18
Cancer	0.86	2.12	2.01	2.04
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	1.43	2.03	1.84	*
Heart and Circulatory	1.71	4.88	4.54	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.43	1.27	1.22	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births)	-	0.80	0.89	0.69
Infant Mortality	36.1	28.3	28.0	25.5
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	20.2	26.6	25.9	23.4

* figures not available.

PART TWO.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

TABLE IV.

	Jan/ Mar	Apr/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	No. of cases admitted to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	8	2	-	-	10	-	9
Cerebral Spinal Fever	1	1	-	-	2	2	1
Pneumonia	2	2	5	5	14	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	2	6	1	11	-	-
Measles	-	3	3	5	11	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	2	2	-	2
	13	10	15	13	51	2	12

Certain of the above figures call for comment.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever reported during the year show a decrease on those for last year from 21 to 10. Cases on the whole are mild in character.

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year. 98 children under the age of five years, and 229 over the age of five years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 329 children received a reinforcing injection.

The need for immunisation remains as great as ever, if this killing disease is to be kept at bay.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

TABLE V.

Number of Cases in Register:	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Total in Reg.
At the commencement of 1954	27	14	6	14	61
Notified for the first time during 1954	5	3	-	-	8
Transfers - Inward	1	-	-	-	1
Removed during 1954	6	-	-	1	7
At end of 1954	27	17	6	13	63

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table.

TABLE VI.

Entries relating to:-	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Total.
Persons who have died	2	-	-	-	2
Persons who have left the district	3	-	-	-	3
Persons recovered	1	-	-	1	2
	6	-	-	1	7

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of the disease.

TABLE VII.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Resp. M.	Non-Resp. F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Under 45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Under 55	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	3	-	-	2	-	-	-

Part III

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF THE
WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

DIVISION 12.

Pontefract Municipal Borough

Featherstone Urban District

Knottingley Urban District

Osgoldcross Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
1954

BY

J.F. FRASER

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Divisional Staff at 31.12.54.

Divisional Medical Officer:

J.F. FRASER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Assistant County Medical Officers & School Medical Officers.

G.M. Mayhall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J.C. White, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss E.M. Atkinson
Mrs. P.M. Brice
Miss B.N. Kennington
Mrs. A. Kerton
Miss M.H. Osborne
Miss B.K. Porter
Miss E.A. Ross
Miss H. Theobald
Mrs. M.K. Walsh

Assistant Health Visitors:

Miss L.O.I. Day
Mrs. A. Williams
Mrs. J.K. Smith (Clinic Nurse)

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

Mrs. E.W. Petch

Midwives:

Miss K. Ault
Mrs. A. Atack
Mrs. I. Bushell
Mrs. E. Glover (relief)
Mrs. B. Lister
Miss C. Norton
Mrs. A. Pritchard
Mrs. A.M. Randall
Miss C.A. Roberts
Mrs. W. Tame
Mrs. J.R. Wilford
Miss M. Wright

Home Nurses:

Mrs. F.M. Ashworth
Mrs. R.L. Copestake
Miss A. Elsley
Mrs. F. Green
Miss E. Leach (relief)
Miss E. Lumley
Mrs. A. Moiser

Mental Health Social Worker.

Miss E.T. Simons

Mental Health Home Teacher.

Mrs. G.J. Argile

Speech Therapist:

Vacancy

Duly Authorised Officer:

Mr. R.W.F. Battye

Senior Clerk:

Mr. W. Carver.

INTRODUCTION

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Services Act.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1954 was 963 (491 males and 472 females), a decrease of 51 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, although 17.3 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 18.5 for the previous year was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 15.1 and the England and Wales birth rate of 15.2

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 535 (309 males and 226 females), a decrease of 105 compared with 1953.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 11.7 for the previous year. Here again the death rate compares favourably with that for the West Riding Administrative Area which is 11.9 and for England and Wales 11.3.

Infant Mortality.

In 1954 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 33, a decrease of three compared with the previous year. The infant mortality rate was 34.3 as against 35.5 in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality.

It was pleasing to note that once again there were no maternal deaths in the Divisional area.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Domiciliary Midwifery

Of the 988 notified live births, 504 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 59 of these cases.

Notifications

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the division:

Death of Child	2
Still Births	8
Artificial Feeding	50
Liability to be a Source of Infection	6

Medical Assistance

Medical aid notices sent in by midwives during 1954 numbered 115, all of these being domiciliary.

Gas and Air Analgesia

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Gas and air analgesia was given in 330 cases compared with 321 the previous year.

Pethidine was administered to 339 patients compared with 329 the previous year.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four Ante-Natal Clinics in the division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 575 patients attended, of which 420 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2,589.

At all of these clinics post-natal examinations are carried out and 160 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

Relaxation Classes

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract and Featherstone Clinics.

These have continued to be well attended and it has been found necessary to increase the number of sessions at the Pontefract Clinic. The number of attendances at these clinics during the year was 517.

Institutional Midwifery

Patients from this division are admitted either to the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

No difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation, although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

CHILD WELFARE.

There are in the division eight Infant Welfare Centres, the clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley being held in county-owned premises, whilst the ones at Carleton, Ferrybridge, Streethouse, Loscoe and Beal are held in hired premises.

The clinic at Headlands Road, Pontefract has been inadequate and unsuitable for some years now, but due to restrictions on building it has not been possible to replace this clinic. Plans have now been approved for the erection of a new multiple clinic in Horsefair, and it is hoped that a start will be made in the financial year 1955/56. This clinic will cater for children from the other areas of the division for specialist services such as Ear, Nose and Throat, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Ultra Violet Ray, etc. During the year 1,622 children attended the clinics and made 13,222 visits.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price to all women attending the clinics:

Ostermilk	Virol
Trufood	Maltoline
Cow & Gate	Farex
Ovaltine	Scotts Twin Pack
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Groats
Horlicks	Robinson's Patent Barley
Minadex	Colact
Lactagol	Robrex
Bemax	Robsoup
Cerex	Bovril Weaning Food
Trufood Cereal	Roboleine

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets	Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets	A & D Liquid
Vitamin 'C'	Lactation Tablets

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

Premature Babies.

During the year 54 babies weighing 5½lbs or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the division and 24 were born at home.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) imtermediates (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 54 schools in the division.

Re-examinations of children who at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3,805 periodic inspections were carried out. In addition 1,550 special inspections and re-examinations were made. When it is considered that the school population is 10,000 it will be realised over half of all children at school were examined at one time or another during the year.

General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and are classified as follows: (a) those better than normal (b) normal (c) below normal. In this area 42.6% were classified (a), 51.19% (b), and only 6.21% (c).

Uncleanliness.

During the year Health Visitors and School Nurses made 16,273 examinations of children in schools. Of these 670 individual children were found to be infested.

SPECIAL CLINICS

Ophthalmic Clinics.

Mr. S.K. Sledge holds one session per week at the Pontefract Clinic at which children from all areas of the division attend. Due to the large number of children awaiting examination it has been necessary on occasions to hold additional sessions which have been held by Dr. J.V. Kirkwood, and during the year 1,155 children were examined. Of these 462 were prescribed glasses.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Headlands Road Clinic for children from this division. Due to the large waiting list Mr. Mayall has very kindly undertaken additional sessions during the year and in all 27 sessions have been held. The total number of children seen by Mr. Mayall during the year was 271 and the total number of attendances made was 379.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. A.J.S. Bell-Tawse, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon holds a monthly clinic at the Headlands Road Clinic and during the year 11 sessions were held. 152 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 208.

Child Guidance Treatment.

Dr. M.M. MacTaggart, Educational Psychologist holds Child Guidance Clinics at the County Health Department, Wakefield for children from this area, and during the year 9 new cases were seen, whilst 24 children continued attendance from the previous year. The total number of attendances made was 107.

Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

During the winter months Ultra Violet Ray treatment sessions are held twice weekly at the Headlands Road Clinic, Pontefract and these are well attended.

Speech Therapy.

Mrs. N. Hepworth, Speech Therapist unfortunately resigned on the 30th September, 1954 for domestic reasons and since that date it has not been possible to obtain a replacement. Until Mrs. Hepworth left, she treated 50 children of which 14 were new cases.

Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary recommendations were made for placement in Special Schools.

Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 28 candidates were examined and where necessary x-ray examination arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 5 examinations were made.

Dental Treatment of School Children.

I give below details of the work undertaken by the School Dental Service in this area during the year:-

No. of children inspected	2183
No. of children found to require treatment	1088
No. of children offered treatment	1088
No. of children treated	1762
No. of attendances	3358
No. of extractions - temporary	3588
- permanent	770
No. of general anaesthetics	1014
No. of fillings - temporary	1
- permanent	2568
No. of other treatments - temporary	24
- permanent	893

HEALTH VISITING

During the year the following number of visits were made by Health Visitors in the Division:

No. of Children under 5 years of age visited during the year.	3170
Total visits made to expectant mothers	168
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age	6197
Total visits to children aged 1 and under 2 years	3837
Total visits to children aged 2 but under 5 years	4921
Total visits to tuberculous households	2145
Total families or households visited	3066
Other cases visited	4095

HOME NURSING.

During the year 24,197 visits were paid by Home Nurses compared with 19,218 in the previous year. This despite the fact that during the larger part of the year the service was under-staffed. The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification.	No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year.
(1) Medical	550	17588
(2) Surgical	222	5388
(3) Infectious Diseases.	2	14
(4) Tuberculosis	39	1166
(5) Maternal complications.	5	41
TOTALS.	818	24197
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	380	14709
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	42	437
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year.	109	6707

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The home help service is provided under the National Health Act 1946. Section 29 of the act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:

(a) Ill

(b) Lying-in

(c) Aged

(d) Expectant Mother

(e) Mental Defective

(f) A child not over compulsory school age.

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council Scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this division was increased from 20 to 23 on the 1st April, 1954 and during the year the following assistance was given:-

Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i)	Basic	20/23
(ii)	From Reserve Pool	-
(iii)	TOTAL	20/23

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December.

(i)	Whole-time	Nil
(ii)	Part-time	32
(iii)	Total	32

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December:

		No. of Cases.	Hours employed.
(i)	Maternity (including expectant mothers)	88	8,259
(ii)	Tuberculosis	3	688
(iii)	Chronic sick, including aged & infirm	156	36,405
(iv)	Others	3	460
	TOTALS.	250	45,812

Number of home helps that could have been employed full-time. = 20.02

MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health work in the division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under Voluntary and Statutory Supervision, and in the provision of reports on home conditions to Hospital Management Committees. The nearest Occupation Centre to this area is at Castleford and at the end of the year 15 children from this area were attending there. For the children who are considered unsuitable for the Occupation Centre, group training classes are held twice weekly at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics, where the Home Teacher, Mrs. Argile provides training in handicrafts of various sorts.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES.

New entrants to the County Council Service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 83 candidates. In addition 3 members of the County Staff resident in the Divisional area who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period were examined to ascertain whether or not they were incapable of continuing employment by reason of permanent ill-health.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

BY

K. WHITELEY,

M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
KNOTTINGLEY.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure I present to you my eighth annual report. By the time this report is circulated I shall of course have left Knottingley. During my seven and a half years in your service I have endeavoured to work for the good of the district and I have some satisfaction in believing that my work was not entirely in vain. I have not accomplished as much as I would have liked but with advancing years one realises more and more that "Rome was not built in a day". I wish every success to Mr. Leslie Barber who will be following me and trust that he will receive all the aid and consideration of all the Members and Officials of the Council.

The major topic during the past year was of course the resumption of private slaughtering. The method in which the transition took place left much to be desired and most Councils were left "holding the baby". The way in which they tackled this problem was to be admired, it is now up to them to prove that a far more efficient system is in force and one that ensures that the public are getting nothing but first class meat.

The second major problem which faced the Council was the coming in to force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the resumption of full powers under parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1936. I do not envy Mr. Barber his job in carrying out this work for without some assistance I fail to see how his other duties can be done efficiently. This is not an attempt to under-rate Mr. Barber but an effort to put the amount of work to be done in this department in true perspective.

The details of the work carried out under the various headings are as follows:-

1. General Sanitation and Abatement of Nuisances

During the year 277 visits and inspections were made with regard to various nuisances. 76 Informal Notices and 2 Statutory Notices were served and at the end of the year only 8 informal and 4 statutory notices were outstanding, this is over a 50% decrease on last year figures. At no time during the year was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

I am still of the opinion that many drainage systems and parts of the sewerage system in the district are in need of overhaul. I think it would be a wise policy to bear this in mind and where possible steps taken to bring these poorer systems up to present day standards. These are still approximately 40 houses in the district which are not sewered and the possibility that they will be seems remote owing to various geographical conditions.

It is natural, in such an industrial area as this, that complaints are made from time to time regarding faulty trade processes. On the whole though the percentage of complaints are small and when warranted have been dealt with as expeditiously as possible by the firm concerned.

Owing to the short amount of time left before I take my leave of Knottingley, I do not propose to list a large number of statistics as in previous years. These records are kept in the Department and are available for inspection at any time.

2. Water Supplies

There has been no shortage or deterioration of quality in the supply of water during the year. There have been occasions though when we have been nearing our 'allocation' but action by the Surveyor has forstalled any drastic measures.

At the beginning of the year new Byelaws came into operation for preventing waste, undue consumption, nuisance or contamination of water.

3. Rodent Control

Work continues to be carried out as in previous years and the part time operator appears to be doing his work efficiently.

A sewer test and maintenance treatment was carried out at the latter end of the year with very good results. The sewers in the Cow Lane, Sunny Bank and Garden Lane areas were fairly heavily infested. This area seems to be the one black spot in the district and I should not be surprised to hear that there were some inlets to the sewer, probably from the now disused drainage systems of houses that have long been demolished.

During the year 37 infestations have been successfully dealt with. Council property receives constant attention and is kept as free of rats as possible.

4. Factories, Workplaces and Shops

During the year 39 inspections were made to factories in the area. In one case a written notice had to be issued. Eight defects were found all of which were later remedied

There has been no alteration to the register during the year except change of ownership and so the numbers remain the same.

Twenty one inspections were made to shops under the Shops Act, 1950, and in 5 cases unsatisfactory conditions were found. Two were remedied but 3 remained outstanding at the end of the year.

5. Disinfestation

Once again we have been plagued by ants and cockroaches. Probably not to the extent of past years but in view of the weather this is hardly surprising. All complaints however have been successfully dealt with.

On reflection it seems strange that this subject is so little appreciated in these modern days, when not so many years ago a great number of dwellings were infested in some way or other and in many cases by insects capable of spreading disease. Just another case where the Sanitary Inspector's work is done efficiently without apparent public notice.

6. Public Cleansing

(a) Collection of Refuse

Once again this side of the cleansing service has been most efficient despite an increase in time off due to sickness and alterations in the personell due to workmen leaving for fresh appointments. Any complaint has been dealt with as soon as possible.

Quite a lot of complaints have been received from traders in the district because we do not collect trade refuse but to inaugurate such a service now would, at the present time, be very expensive and I do not think, even with the charge made for such a service, it could be an economical proposition.

A destructor does exist at the Common Lane Sewage Disposal Works, which can be used by traders if necessary.

(b) Disposal of Refuse

We still carry on with disposal in the same way as in previous years. I would like to repeat the warning that unless sufficient materials and equipment are provided such a tip can become a source of nuisance. A constant supply of covering material is required and with the amount of refuse we have to deal with some mechanical aid is required, though this latter point may be efficiently covered if the Council acquire a tractor.

(c) Cleansing of Cesspools

The new cesspool vehicle, in its first full year, has been well worth while. We have never had a period where the vehicle has not been able to cope with all work expected of it.

Also sewers have been regularly flushed and gullies emptied. The settlement tanks at the Sewage Disposal Works have also been dealt with.

HOUSING

1. General Remarks

Once again there has been a slight increase in the total number of houses built during the year, though future prospects do not look so bright. The figures are as follows:-

	1953	1954
By the Council	137	157
By Private Enterprise	19	11
Totals	156	168

The 'Points Scheme' is still in operation with minor alterations. I do think however that the very worst cases have been dealt with. My warning of last year, that two bedroom accommodation was practically exhausted, went unheeded until the last moment and the Committee were then 'suddenly' faced with the problem of making provision for the smaller families.

During the year a Housing Supervisor was appointed which certainly helped matters in this department. He took over all aspects of house letting and so I was able to devote more time to the duties of my office.

2. Repairs and Maintenance

Forty one houses were inspected during the year, involving 161 visits. Of these 41 houses, 19 were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. The appropriate action was taken and in no cases did a dispute arise with the owners. In the rest of the cases it was considered that repairs would render the houses fit for human habitation and in two cases legal action had to be taken, one resulting in the owner carrying out the necessary work and in the other case the Council were proceeding to have the work done in default.

During the year 15 dwelling houses were demolished, this cleared up some Demolition Orders outstanding from 1953, though there are still some to be done.

3. Overcrowding

It is estimated that 81 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year compared with only 3 new cases of statutory overcrowding reported. Approximately 417 persons benefited by this action.

FOOD INSPECTION

1. Milk

There is one less retail milk dealer in the district than last year and a number of licences have changed hands.

Only two complaints were made during the year and these were dealt with in an informal way. The fault did not actually lie with the retailer, but at the place of bottling.

Four samples were obtained and in each case proved to be satisfactory.

2. Ice-Cream

The position is much the same as last year. There has been one addition only to the number of retailers on the register. Visits were made to retailer's premises and also to the producer/retailer. No unsatisfactory conditions were found. No sample, during the year, was below Grade 1.

3. Meat

A great change has taken place since last year, as already mentioned, with a resultant increase in the amount of work having to be done. Essential work, such as new floors, smooth walls etc., was carried out in all slaughterhouses and one owner in particular is to be congratulated on the way he tackled the problem. I have no hesitation in saying that I am of the opinion that this slaughterhouse must be the finest private slaughterhouse for miles around. After a little while it was found that it would be essential to efficiency to have hanging rooms in all slaughterhouses and preparations were going ahead at the end of the year to see that this was done.

I feel sure that now the butchers are buying their own animals a much better class of meat is reaching the public. This happy situation may not continue though if market prices continue to rise steeply as they have done during the latter few weeks of 1954. It is to be hoped that this is not an indication of shortage with the probable reintroduction of rationed meat.

Since the change over took place at the beginning of July, 1954, the following carcases have been inspected, involving 388 visits to slaughterhouses.

403 Cattle	797 Sheep	283 Pigs

These inspections resulted in 17 cwt. 51 lb. of meat being condemned as unfit for human consumption.

4. Other Foods

Once again a large number of inspections have been carried out for the sole purpose of examining food. These visits have resulted in approximately 4 cwt. 25 lb. of food being condemned as unfit for human consumption.

5. Food Premises

During the year 195 visits were made to premises dealing in the manufacture and sale of food. This is nearly a 100% increase in last years inspections and is a trend in the right direction. Other duties however continue to be more pressing and work in this field continues to be curtailed.

CANAL BOATS

No further resigtrations took place during the year and only four inspections were made.

Statement of Particulars furnished pursuant to Article 18 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Number and nature of inspections made by the writer during 1954:-

Nature	Number
Public Health Act, 1936.	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Movable dwellings and sites	10
Offensive trades	8
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Initial Inspections	98
Other Inspections	179
Verminous Infestation Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses - Council	4
Private	2
Other premises or articles	0
Infectious disease, etc. enquiries	6
Factories Act, 1937.	
Inspections for Sanitary Conditions:	
Factories with mechanical power	33
Factories without mechanical power	6
Inspections for Means of Escape in case of Fire	3
Shops Act, 1950.	
Total shops visited	18
Inspections made	21
Housing Act, 1936.	
Housing conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects	161
Houses inspected	41
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	3
Council Housing:	
Visits to tenants of Council Houses to ascertain home conditions	4
Miscellaneous enquiries	142
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	
Meat Inspection:	
Visits to depot and slaughterhouses	388
Visits to shops etc. for meat inspection	76
Milk Supplies:	
Investigation of production methods	0
Investigation of distribution methods	2
Ice-Cream:	
Investigations regarding manufacture	4
Investigations regarding retailing	3
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops etc. for food inspection	195

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspection of premises	37
Inspections during treatment	14

Miscellaneous Inspections.

Schools	4
Refuse tips	28

Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

Act & Section concerned.	No. of informal notices						No. of statutory notices					
	Outstanding from 1953	Served in 1954	Total of A and B	Complied with	Not complied with: Statutory Notices served in 1954	Not complied with: Outstanding at the end of 1954	Outstanding from 1953	Served in 1954	Total of G and H	Complied with	Work done by L.A. in default	Outstanding at the end of 1954
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Public Health Act, 1936.	22	76	98	90	2	6	4	2	6	2	-	4
Housing Act, 1936.	24	11	35	25	-	10	8	18	27	19	-	8
Factories Act, 1937.	-	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Department

The staff now comprises of myself and a full time shorthand-typist/clerk.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

K. WHITELEY, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

March, 1955.